

6- OCT 1942

HIRAETHOG RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH 1941.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hiraethog Rural District Council:

Gentlemen,

We beg to present our Report for the year 1941 - drawn out on similar lines to the previous war-time reports.

Statistics and General Conditions.

Statistics supplied by the Registrar General show an estimated increase in population and the figure given is less than the actual increase known to have taken place during the year.

The number of births was 76 giving a live birth rate of 12.4 compared with 12.2 for 1940 and 14.2 for England and Wales (1941).

There were 92 deaths giving a crude death rate of 15.1 compared with a comparative rate of 14.0 for 1940 and 12.9 for England and Wales (1941).

Three parties consisting of a total of 601 children together with their Teachers and Helpers were evacuated into the District under the Government Evacuation Scheme during the year. Taking into consideration the circumstances under which the children were evacuated, they were in a better physical condition to be admitted into billets than during the previous evacuation. It was estimated that there were about 1,000 other evacuees in the area previously, saturation point with regard to accommodation was passed but the situation regarding overcrowding became easier towards the end of the year as the evacuees gradually returned home.

Difficulties were experienced in the matters of cloth school accommodation and other similar problems but the chief problem was the disposal of children unfit for billeting at the end of the evacuation or became unfit later owing to skin diseases. Attempts were repeated to obtain official sanction for the adaption of Glan Conway House as a sick bay ~~they~~ but they were all turned down. Though in theory this place was a Hostel, it had to be used as a sick bay for some months until official sick bays were established towards the end of the year. The staffing of Glan Conway gave some difficulty at first and trouble was experienced with the water supply owing to interference with the sources of supply, - there is still need for a schoolroom, staff room and extra bedroom for temporary isolation. The improved physical condition and behaviour of the children who have passed through the hostel is a tribute to the hard work and perseverance of the Staff there, especially so of the Matron who has patiently carried on first as a Helper and then as Matron from May under very trying and unfavourable circumstances.

The health of the evacuated children in the area has on the whole been good except for skin complaints, notably Scabies.

Health Services.

There is no change to note in the provisions recorded under this heading. The Council willingly undertook to share in the financing of the E.P.H. Laboratory at Conway and it is hoped that the Laboratory will become a permanent one for N. Wales as it has proved to be a great advantage and help.

The A. R. P. personnel has been maintained at full strength in the Casualty Services and the members deserve commendation for their interest and efficiency in the work. Representations made for the provision of a first aid and ambulance have not been successful.

Sanitary circumstances of the Area.

Water Supplies: Shortages were experienced at Pandy Tudur and Eglwysbach and emergency measures had to be taken for the provision of a temporary supply - shortages were also experienced in general throughout the District but no acute shortage existed on any of the Council's water services.

Much work will have to be carried out in the future in the provision of wholesome supplies throughout the area.

Housing: People evacuated into the area took over houses and reconditioned them - the bye law requirements were enforced with the result that decent habitations were made out of property which normally would have been dealt with under the Housing Acts - this has lessened the number of houses available for agricultural workers.

Two houses, scheduled for treatment under the Housing Acts, were licensed for occupation for a renewable period of six months.

Repairs to war damaged houses on two farms were carried out - the damage was not extensive.

950 inspections were made - two informal notices (nil complied with) and two statutory notices (two complied with) were served.

Sewerage: No additional new works were carried out and existing schemes worked satisfactorily.

Scavenging: Collection of refuse is carried out throughout the District with night soil collection in two villages. In one village more frequent removal of night soil had to be arranged owing to the increased number of evacuee children.

Disinfection: 18 houses were disinfected and clothing and bedding removed for fumigation where necessary.

Schools: Improvements pressed for at Nebo School have been effected - conversion being made from privy midden to bucket closet and the number of conveniences increased by one. Representations were made to the L. E. A. regarding overcrowding of certain schools after the arrival of evacuee children and suitable action was taken.

Milk: 320 applications and registrations under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 were made during the year - owing to travelling restrictions, it was not possible to deal with these immediately.

Meat: The meat supplied to this area is slaughtered at centres at Colwyn Bay, Abergole and Corwen.

Infectious and other Diseases.

A widespread epidemic of Mumps occurred in the Glasfryn area in February and March - the source of the infection was outside the District. Children attending schools outside the District contracted Measles and infected other children at their homes with the result that there was an epidemic amongst Cerrig schoolchildren in June and July.

A few children suffered from a mild form of Whooping Cough in the Cerrig and Glasfryn areas during October and August respectively.

One child contracted Scarletina at Cerrig - the carrier was an evacuee who had not been medically examined at Liverpool - another case at Maerdy was an adult who had been infected at a hospital outside the area.

Diphtheria immunisation: At the end of the year, County returns showed that 79.5% of the schoolchildren and 54.6% of children under 5 yrs of age had been immunised in the whole District.

In the upper area of the District, returns from the Schools showed that 94% of the children normally resident in the area had been treated and two were partially immunised during the year. Representations were made to the County Medical Officer of Health regarding the matter. In the upper area, it is suggested that the Medical Officer of Health should undertake the work of immunising children of all ages and that the School Medical Officer should concentrate on Shick testing all children who have been treated.

<u>Notifiable Diseases.</u>	Total Notified.	Admitted To Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarletina	7	6	0
Diphtheria	4	4	0
Typhoid	3	3	0
Measles	68	0	0
Whooping Cough	24	0	2
Pneumonia	6	0	3
Puerperal Pyresia	1	0	0

<u>Age Groups</u>	Scarletina.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid.	Measles.	Wh. Cough.	Pneumonia.	Puerperal Pyrex.
Under 1 yr.	1	0	0	0	2	1	
5	1	0	0	13	8	0	0
5 yr & over	3	1	0	22	11	2	0
10	0	1	0	19	3	1	0
15	1	0	0	4	0	1	0
20	1	2	0	2	0	1	0
35	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
45	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
65	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	7	4	3	68	24	6	1

Tuberculosis.

	New Cases		Deaths	
	Respiratory Male	Respiratory Female	Non Respiratory Male	Non Respiratory Female
Under 1 yr	1	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0
5 yr & over	0	0	1	0
10	0	2	1	0
15	0	2	0	0
20	0	1	0	0
35	0	0	0	0
45	0	0	0	3
65	0	0	0	0
Total	1	5	2	0

The four deaths were all non-notified cases so far as can be traced, and the Tuberculosis mortality was 0.7.

In conclusion we beg to acknowledge the help received from the Clerk and his Staff and the efficient services rendered by the Sanitary Inspector.

We beg to remain,

Your obedient Servants.

G. LEWIS TRAVIS
IFOR H. DAVIES.

August, 1942.

